

SUPPORTING DANE COUNTY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH CODE FOR AMERICA

Dane County is committed to improving the criminal justice system. To be most effective, it is important to have transparent, data driven decision making, and community engagement in change. To that end, Dane County applied to be one of the national selected sites to work with the not-for-profit organization, Code for America. Selected as one of the nation's three sites for safety and justice projects, Dane County will focus on increasing transparency and community engagement via innovative technology.

Code For America (CFA) builds open source technology and organizes a network of people dedicated to making government services simple, effective, and easy to use. Often referred to as "Peace Corps for Geeks", CFA is an opportunity for mid-career technology professionals to engage government in technology innovation, thereby increasing residents satisfaction. They facilitate collaboration between government staff and community in order to foster forward-thinking approaches to solving problems.

The CFA project would bring three fellows to Dane County to integrate criminal justice information systems and develop applications resulting in greater transparency and ease of interaction with the criminal justice system. The County Board's Equity and Criminal Justice Council Coordinator would provide local project management for this effort.

The total cost of the project is \$440,000 and requires a Dane County match of up to 50%, or \$220,000, which can be provided by a mix of county funds as well as local and national fundraising. The County Board could reallocate already budgeted funds to provide an initial amount for the local match. If Dane County is unable to raise sufficient funds in support of this effort by September 28, 2015, the project would not go forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports a partnership with Code for America and endorses efforts to raise funds to enable county participation as a CFA project site in 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$30,000 be transferred from COBOARD 30390 – Auditing Services POS, and \$20,000 be transferred from Miscellaneous - Criminal Justice to a new fund in the County Board Office called CFA PROJECT MATCH.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, if match funds for the CFA project have been secured by September 28, 2015 the County Executive and County Clerk be directed to sign the contract with Code for America to implement an application development project during 2016.